Amendments and Comments to the Drawings:

The attached Replacement Sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 5B. Fig. 5B is being amended to indicate reference numeral 128 as noted by the Examiner, and as recited in the specification. In addition, cross-sectional lines 5c-5c are being presented as not crossed out. Amendments to Fig. 5B are indicated on the attached Annotated Sheet of drawings.

The Replacement Sheets replacing original Figs. 1A, 1B, Figs. 2-5A and Figs. 5D-6 are being presented as formal drawings and are not otherwise being amended.

The Applicant respectfully submits that no new subject matter is being introduced in the replacement drawings.

Acceptance of the replacement drawings is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Status of claims

By the present Amendment, Claims 1, 2, 9, 15 and 17 are being amended, claims 12-14 are canceled and claims 18-19 have been previously withdrawn from consideration as drawn to non-elected subject matter.

I. Objection of Claims 1-11 and 15-17

In the Action, claims 1-11 and 15-17 were objected to because of various informalities. In particular, claim 1 was objected to as not having an antecedent basis for "the flange portion (page 11, line 17), claim 2 for "portion" appearing after "inner leg" (page 11, line 21), claim 9 for lack of antecedent basis for "the base" of the body (page 12, line 17), claim 15 for lack of antecedent basis for "the interface portion" (page 13, lines 19 and 23) and for lack of antecedent basis for "the flange portion" (page 13, line 26), and claim 17 for "portion" appearing after "inner leg".

By the present Amendment the claims have been amended as indicated above in order to correct these informalities. The Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims as they are informalities which, by being corrected, place the claims into their original intended form.

In view of the foregoing, removal of the objection to claims 1-11 and 15-17 is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S. C. 102(e)

Also in the Action claim 12 was rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Sullivan et al ('356 patent). In order to expedite allowance of the instant case, claim 12 has been cancelled. The canceling of claim 12 is in no way an admission as to the correctness of the Examiner's rejection of claim 12. The Applicant reserves all rights to prosecute claim 12 in a continuing application, if so desired.

III. Rejection of Claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S. C. 103(a)

Also in the Action, claims 13 and 14 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sullivan et al in view of Myers ('244 patent). Again, to expedite allowance

of the instant case, claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled. The canceling of claims 13-14 is in no way an admission as to the correctness of the Examiner's rejection of claims 13-14. The Applicant reserves all rights to prosecute claims 13-14 in a continuing application, if so desired.

IV. Allowance of claim 1-11 and 15-17

Finally, in the Action the Examiner indicated that claims 1-11 and 15-17 would be allowable if the objections to the claims were overcome. Furthermore, the Examiner pointed out that phrases such as "interposed between the side wall of the enclosure and the outer leg of the clip" was regarded as positively claiming the enclosure with the lock assembly.

By the present Amendment the objections to claims 1-11 and 15-17 have been overcome. In addition, the Applicant submits that the amendment to the claims so that the base is claimed as being "constructed and arranged to be interposed..." and the clip is claimed as "constructed and arranged to encircle the side wall of the enclosure" no longer positively claims the enclosure with the lock assembly.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-11 and 15-17, which do not positively claim the enclosure, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the case is found by the Examiner not to be in condition for allowance, then the Applicant hereby requests a telephone or personal interview to facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters. Applicant's attorney may be contact by telephone at the number indicated below to schedule such an interview.

The Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any additional fees due for this submission, or to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-1935.

Respectfully submitted,
BOWDITCH & DEWEY, LLP

Date: <u>J-23-200.S</u>

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Bowditch & Dewey, LLP 161 Worcester Road P.O. Box 9320 Framingham, Massachusetts 01701-9320 Docket No.: 150448.3000-100
Inventor: Anthony J. Agbay
Title: Locking Device for a Meter Socket
Annotated Sheet



